

A  
DECLARATION  
OF A  
Congregationall Church  
IN  
WIVERTON in Devon,

ainst the late Horrid insurrection and  
Rebellion in LONDON.

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Math. 26. 52. *All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.*

Mat. 18. 36. *My kingdome is not of this world: if my kingdome were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Iews: but now is my kingdome not from hence.*

Rom. 13. 1, 2. *Let every soul be subject to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God.*

*Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God, and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*

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Printed in the year, 1661.

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Congregational Church

IN

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and the late Hon. and  
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# DECLARATION

OF

*Congregationall Church*

IN

*TIVERTON in Devon,*

Against the late Horrid Insurrection and  
Rebellion in LONDON.

**T**Orasmuch as by diverse reports that have come to  
our ears, we perceive that even *Congregationall*  
*men* as well as others, are by some suspected to  
have been privy to the late *Horrid Insurrection*  
and *Rebellion* in the City of *LONDON*, and to have  
been

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been someway or other engaged to promote the like *Insurrection and Rebellion* in the *Country*, which we are thether induced to believe by the jealousies that some have professed to have had of some of our selves in particular; We therefore hold it our duty, for the clearing of our selves in this matter, and for the testifying of the sincere and Loyal affections which we bear unto our *Dread Sovereigne*, to declare and publish, That we have none of us been privy to the said *Horrid Insurrection and Rebellion*, nor have had any way either directly or indirectly any hand in it, but do look upon it to be (as indeed it is) one of the most wicked and damnable *Undertakings* that ever was engaged in, by any *trough Christians*, since the beginning of Christianity unto this day, an *Undertaking* so far from having any warrant from the word of God, that it is most directly contrary and contradictory thereunto. And therefore we do further declare, that if we knew of any one relating to us, that he were any way engaged either in this, or in any such like wicked and Develish *Enterprise*, we should presently with the greatest abhorrency and detestation abandon him, and endeavour to our uttermost that he might be taken notice of, and dealt with, as a most *dangerous person*, not fit to have any place in any *Common-Wealth* of men, much lesse in any *Church* of Christians.

As for that we believe concerning the *Authority of Magistrates* and the *Duty of Subjects*, we are glad that we can truly say, not onely that it *Now* is, but that *heretofore* it hath been consonant to the *principles of the Gospel*. Witnessse our *Confession of Faith* drawn up and agreed upon some years since in a *Meeting* of the *Elders* and *Messengers* of an hundred and twenty *Churches* of the *Congregational way* at the *Savoy*, where *We* had our *Messengers* as well as the other *Churches*, wherein we have declared & published to the World.

1. That

1. That God the Supream Lord and King of all the World hath ordained *Civil Magistrates*, to be under him over the people for his own glory and the publike good; and to this end hath armed them with the power of the *Sword* for the defence and encouragement of them that do good and for the punishment of Evildoers.

2. That it is lawful for *Christians* to accept and execute the Office of a *Magistrate* when called thereunto: in the management whereof, as they ought especially to maintain Justice and peace, according to the wholesome Laws of each *Common-Wealth*; so for that end may lawfully now under the *New Testament* wage War upon just and necessary occasion.

3. That although the *Magistrate* is bound to encourage, promote, and protect the professours and profession of the Gospel, and to manage and order Civil administrations in a due subserviency to the interest of *Christ* in the World, and to that end to take care that men of corrupt minds and conversations do not licentiously publish and divulge *blasphemies* and *errors* in their own nature subverting the faith, and inevitably destroy the souls of them that receive them: Yet in such difference about the doctrines of the Gospel, or wayes of the worship of God, as may befall men exercising a good conscience, manifesting it in their conversation, and holding the foundation, not disturbing others in their wayes or worship that differ from them, there is no warrant for the *Magistrate* under the Gospel to abridge them of their Liberty.

Lastly, That it is the duty of the people to pray for *Magistrates*, to honour their persons, to pay them tribute and other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be Subject to their Authority for conscience sake. Infidelity or difference in Religion doth not make voyd the *Magistrates* just and legal Authority, nor free the people from their Obedience to him

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him: from which *Ecclesiastical persons* are not exempted, much lesse hath the *Pope* any power, or jurisdiction over them and their *Dominions*, or over any of their people, and least of all to deprive them of their *Dominions* or lives, if he shall Judge them to be *Hereticks*, or upon any other pretence whatsoever.

This hath been, and is still, that which we publicly professe as our *Faith* concerning the *Civil Magistrate*: and as our practice hath been, so it is, and we trust shall be still agreeable thereunto, knowing well that there is no *Religion* in the World that teacheth and enjoyneth more strict Subjection and obedience to the Higher Powers, then the *Christian Religion* doth, which tells us, That we must ~~needs~~ *be Subject not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.* And therefore we do resolve to own and to defend *his Majesties Supremecy and Sovereignty* according as is exprest in the *Oath of a Supremacy and Allegiance*, which we have all of us either actually taken already, or are ready to take whensoever it shall be required of us.

As for what we believe concerning the *Kingdome of Christ*, It hath been long since publicly taught amongst us, and acknowledged by us, and is so still, *That the Kingdome of Christ is a spiritual Kingdome, and that it is not to be set up by any other Sword then the Sword of the Spirit.* And therefore utterly renouncing the principles of those that are pretenders to it under the notion of a *fifth Monarchy*, by which it seems some have been carryed into practices of the most *unnatural and unchristian Rebellion*. We further say (borrowing the words of a late eminent *Divine*) That the *Kingdome of Christ* doth not come into rank and order with *secular Monarchys*, as to be called *fifth* or *sixth*, for they fought down one another, but *my Kingdome* saith *Christ* is not of this World, *else would my servants fight.* This *Kingdome* of

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of *Christ* is *already* set up, *Dan. 4.24.* in the dayes of these Kings saith the Text. *Messiah* the Prince is the King, and he rules his *Sans*. And therefore it is a *Jewish* conceit to dream of a temporal, and as they call it a *fifth Monarchy*, for that conceit hath cost the *Jews* dear, and if greater glory be to come yet we must not bring it in, as the *Jews* their *false Christs*, by head and shoulders.

## Signed in the Name and by the appointment of the Church

By

Theophilus Polwheile Teacher

Hen. Fitzwilliams

Humphrey Spurway

Rich. Prowse

Peter Bere Iuner

Nicholas Hitchcock

Andrew Speed

Rich. Hewett

Geo. Berry

Members of the Church;

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